

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01 ERDA-05
CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05
PM-04 OES-06 SS-15 STR-04 ACDA-07 ISO-00 /100 W
-----111237Z 123241 /20

R 110935Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3831
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR BG IR ENRG
SUBJECT: ZIA RETURNS FROM IRAN

REF: DACCA 1012

1. AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE UPON HIS RETURN
TO DACCA MARCH 10 FROM HIS FOUR-DAY GOODWILL MISSION
TO IRAN, GENERAL ZIA DECLARED THAT HE HAD HAD VERY SUCCESSFUL
TALKS WITH THE SHAH AND PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA
COVERING BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS. TO THE
PRESS ZIA DID NOT REFER TO FARAKKI AND BORDER TROUBLES
WITH INDIA, THE TWO TOPICS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO
BANGLADESH. ZIA MERELY STATED THAT "OUR POSITION WAS
CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, ENDORSED AND ESTABLISHED." HE DID
INDICATE THAT HE HAD BROUGHT AN ASSURANCE FROM THE SHAH
THAT BANGLADESH WOULD RECEIVE AN INCREASED ALLOCATION
FROM THE OPEC FUND TO HELP FINANCE OIL IMPORTS AND HE
ANNOUNCED THAT A NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY TEAM WOULD
SOON COME TO DACCA TO EXAMINE AREAS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION
IN THE EXPLORATION FOR IOL IN BANGLADESH. AGREEMENTS
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ON CULTURAL COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION WERE ALSO SIGNED DURING THE VISIT.

2. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN
DACCA AND TEHRAN AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT MADE
ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO BANGLADESHI BILATERAL PROBLEMS
WITH INDIA. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, ZIA OUTLINED THE

FARAKKA AND BORDER PROBLEMS AND "THE TWO HEADS OF DELEGATION EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FIND THEIR SPEEDY SOLUTION THROUGH PEACEFUL AND AMICABLE MEANS." IN OTHER SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS, THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THAT A JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AND HAD MET DURING THE TEHRAN VISIT. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE HELD IN DACCA IN THE COMING MONTHS.

3. BANGLADESH RADIO, TELEVISION AND PRESS GAVE THE USUAL ENTHUSIASTIC COVERAGE TO THE VISIT. EDITORIALS PRAISED THE CLOSER TIES FORGED BETWEEN IRAN AND BANGLADESH.

4. COMMENT: AS A GOODWILL VISIT, GENERAL ZIA'S TRIP TO IRAN SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL, PARTICULARLY IN DEMONSTRATING TO THE BANGLADESHI PUBLIC THAT GENERAL ZIA IS A WOLD STATEMAN WHO HAS THE EAR EVEN OF THE SHAH OF IRAN. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF THE TRIP WAS PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENTS, AS THIS WAS ONLY CENTRAL ZIA'S SECOND TRIP ABOARD AS CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR. HOWEVER, ZIA WAS NOT GIVEN QUITE THE TREMENDOUS RECEPTION, INCLUDING HEAD OF STATE HONORS, THAT HE WAS SHOWN IN PEKING ON HIS FIRST TRIP ABROAD EARLIER THIS YEAR. IT IS PROBABLE THAT ZIA WOULD HAVE LIKED A MORE ENTHUSTIC BACKING FROM THE SHAH FOR BANGLADESH'S BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH INDIA. NEVERTHELESS, ZIA CAN TAKE CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION IN RECEIVING FLATTERING PUBLICITY AND AN INCREASED ALLOCATION FROM

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OPEC FUNDS TO FINANCE OIL IMPORTS.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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